

The Macdonald FARM Journal



VOL. 20, NO. 12

DECEMBER, 1959



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Editorial

Is Agriculture A Declining Industry?

IN contrast to the very striking developments which have occurred over the post-war years in almost all segments of the Canadian economy, agriculture has, at least in terms of financial measures, fared very badly. Gross national product in dollar terms has doubled since 1949; and increased by close to 50 per cent in real terms. The civilian labour force has risen from five million to 6,200,000. Real disposable income in the hands of households and individuals rose by some 55 per cent. The speed and character of the growth of the economy have been such that the country has been gravely concerned over the past three years about inflationary forces. Yet that farmer is receiving prices lower than those of ten years ago, and while his cash income is some 20 per cent higher than in 1949, his real income has fallen by more than one-fourth. However, the industry has made giant strides in the direction of rationalizing production and adjusting to what many consider is its inevitable role as a declining industry in a rapidly expanding economy.

But is the relative decline of agriculture inevitable? If so, can agriculture make the necessary adjustments without excessive pain and cost?

Here are the most apparent reasons for the decline theory. In the first place, because of the extremely low response of expenditures on farm products to changes in consumer incomes (about 0.2 per cent at the farm level for each one per cent increase in incomes), the rapid increase in real incomes in the non-farm sector of the economy conveys little benefit to agriculture. In other words, a large part of any increased income in the hands of consumers goes to automobiles, television, recreation and travel — and little to food. Professor T. W. Schultz, of the University of Chicago, has shown that if, over the post-war years the increase in demand for farm products has been only half as fast as the growth of real con-

sumer incomes, then there would be no farm problem in the United States as that problem is known today — in other words, no surpluses and incomes more nearly comparable to those of non-farm workers. This is also true of Canada.

Secondly, Canadian agriculture, while it has made extremely rapid technical progress over the last two decades, is still confronted with a large unused supply of technical knowledge. For these reasons the general outlook is not favourable.

History is replete with examples of declining industries. And the lot of the owners of these industries and workers in them has been dismal. But do we have the capacity to make the necessary adjustments in agriculture without the usual pain? On the production side there is hope for some. It is provided by the fact that technological developments in agriculture tend to require large amounts of capital. This means large farm units, more highly capitalized farm units, and achievement of greater farm output per worker in agriculture. Individual farmers who achieve efficiency in this sense have some assurance that they may overcome the marketing problems created by more production. The wheat farm organized on the basis of annual production of 6,000 to 10,000 bushels per man, or the dairy farm which achieves a production of 200,000 to 250,000 pounds of milk per man, generally has the overall efficiency to yield a good living, even with today's prices.

Thus the general prospect for agriculture over the next ten years is one which implies some restrained optimism for the most productive commercial segment of the industry. On the other hand, the prospect for the small farm, the part-time farm and the subsistence farm is likely to continue as poor as it has over the past decade. However, we should expect some improvement for these farmers due to the increased opportunity for off-farm work. In Eastern Canada

this has been of real importance over the past decade.

How then do we aid in the adjustment process and, at the same time, get efficient food production? Certainly not by forcing output restrictions on our larger scale more efficient farmers. It is both hoped and expected that the present use of price supports on hogs and poultry to injure these producers will not last long. In fact it may be best just to clear the track and let our larger farmers go it alone — without government help or harm, excepting for such programmes as the Canadian Wheat Board and farm credit assistance. This would mean that farm policy could concentrate on aiding the adjustments on small to medium-sized farms.

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CONGRATULATIONS

to the people who purchased **Shorthorn Cattle** from the **Bois de la Roche herd**. The comments are gratifying — the bulls sold are doing a satisfactory job, the females are doing well and producing strong healthy calves, sired by our two massive herd series, Burnton Gustav — Imported — and Canterbury Lad. Both these bulls were Champions and Grand Champions at the fairs we showed.

We have young males and females for sale, also heifers and young cows in calf.

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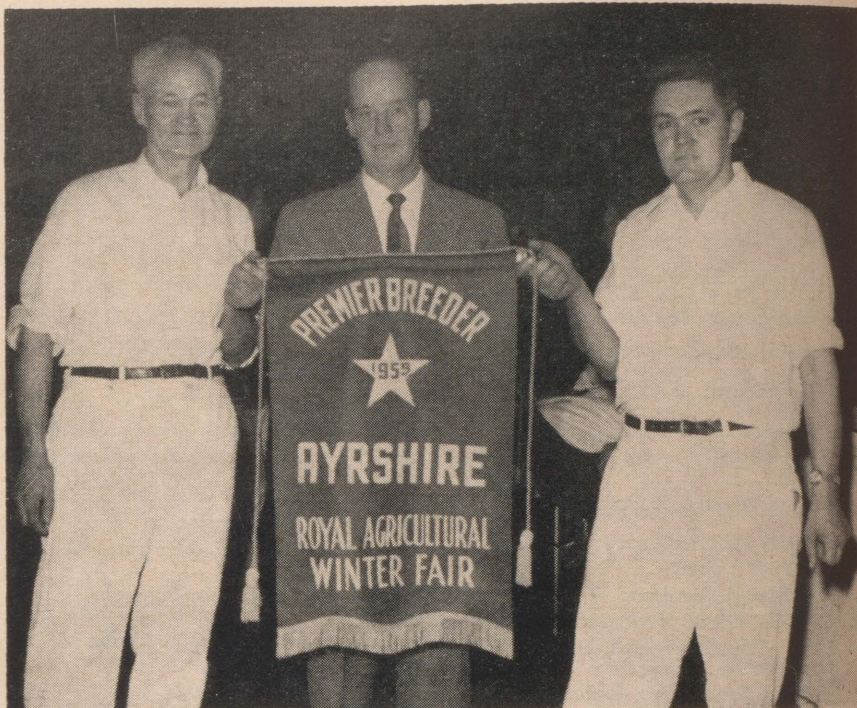
Is Quebec Cashing In On the Royal?

When this province puts forth the effort, it can earn as many ribbons as any part of Canada. The trouble is that it doesn't try often enough.

By H. Gordon Green

IN one of the brightly illuminated booths of the East Annex at Toronto's ever growing Royal, the Province of Alberta had a display this year which was just about as attractive as anything on the floor. With a colorful backdrop of landscape photographs, and some other glowing advertisements of that proud province on either side, a huge billboard keeps adding up the prizes being won by the agricultural entries which Alberta has sent east to compete with Canada's best. It is an unusual idea and one which attracted a lot of attention.

For Quebec, there has apparently never been quite the same desire to acquaint the rest of the nation with our agricultural excellence even though in almost any other field of endeavour we are exceedingly anxious to have it known that this is the province of champions. Indeed, when one adds up the comparative small number of Quebec exhibitors who bother sending entries to the Royal, it would appear that we are maintaining something akin to a boycott of the show. The distance the Quebec farmer has to ship his entries is very short compared to the great distances which other provinces are willing to come. And besides that, our provincial gov-



Premier Breeder Banner goes to S. Wyman MacKechnie & Sons, of Wyman, Quebec, at the Royal Winter Fair. Alex Sutherland, President of the Ayrshire Breeders' Association of Canada, presents the Banner to Mr. MacKechnie and son Ronald.

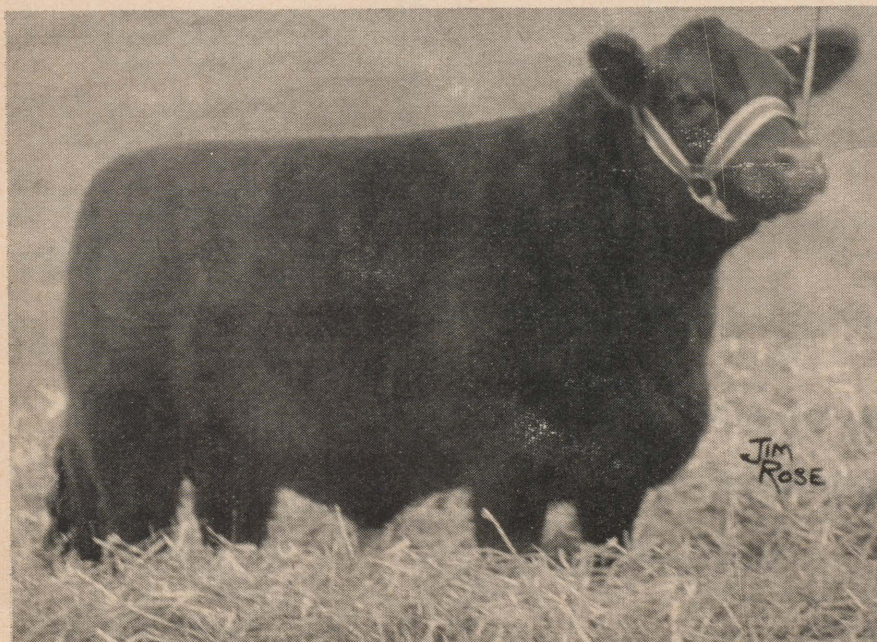
ernment is more than generous in the aid it gives our exhibitors to get their stock down to the Queen City.

Why this reluctance on the part of our breeders to put themselves on display in better numbers? Or

do we in Quebec feel that the resulting advertisement and provincial prestige is something we don't need?

There were Quebec exhibitors, of course, and those who did enter did amazingly well. In the horse classes, both light and heavy, Quebec won so many fine prizes that there is scarcely room enough here to set them down, and as usual the great string of Gilbert Arnold of Grenville made a fine display. But there were no sheep at all, even though Quebec is often looked upon as being a pioneer in the current efforts to rejuvenate this sick industry. There were no Guernseys, not a single Hereford, two exhibitors in beef Shorthorns (Mrs. W. C. Pitfield of Pierrefonds and Tutira Farms of Arundel) and none at all in Dual Purpose Shorthorns, even though some of the finest herds of this breed in all America are undoubtedly found in Quebec.

So it was left for the swine men, the Angus, Ayrshires, Jerseys and Canadian cattle to carry the flag for us. The swine men in particular were eminently successful with Preston Hooker & Son of Ormstown who won the coveted



Juana Erica of Birch Bell 4th, owned and bred by L. T. Porter Sr. of St. Andrews, East, Quebec, was First Summer Yearling, Junior Champion and Reserve Grand Champion at the Royal, this year.

cup for Best Live Market Barrow, Best Junior Pen, Best Senior Pen, Best Get of Sire, the Wade Challenge Trophy and so many other ribbons that it would take a book-keeper to keep track of them. If the Hookers had not parted company this year, father and son going their separate ways, the banner for Premier Exhibitor would also have been theirs.

Over on the other side of the fence, with the gentlemen of the Tamworth persuasion, O. A. Fowler of Kingsbury won another dozen or so of ribbons in a very strong show of the old red pig.

Perhaps the biggest surprise in the whole livestock show so far as Quebec was concerned was the outstanding showing of our Angus entries. Here we had only one exhibitor, L. T. Porter of St. Andrew's East. But in what is perhaps as strong a show as one will find anywhere in America, and competing with Angus from the U.S. as well as all parts of Canada, he showed the Junior Champion female. This wonderful trim animal went on to Reserve Grand. And there were other wins by this same farm which gave the fans something to think about.

In Jerseys, the herds of the McCaig's of Ormstown, John Molson of St. Sauveur, Miss Speyer of Massawippi and Mrs. Virgin of North Hatley were all out with good strength and showed well but no championships came our way. In Canadian cattle, it was as always, a strictly Quebec show and it is of some small pride to us to



Mrs. John McIlwraith, of Balig in Ayrshire, presents the Lessnesock Challenge Trophy to J. G. Wilson, Alderwood Farm, St. Valentin, Quebec, for the winning Dairy Herd at this year's Royal. Right, is Jack MacGeorge, Alderwood Farm manager.

note that the quality of these hardy black dairymaids gets a little better year by year. Says O. A. Fowler of Kingsbury, who has been showing Canadiens since 1924, "The animals which won in those early years would be laughed right out of the ring now."

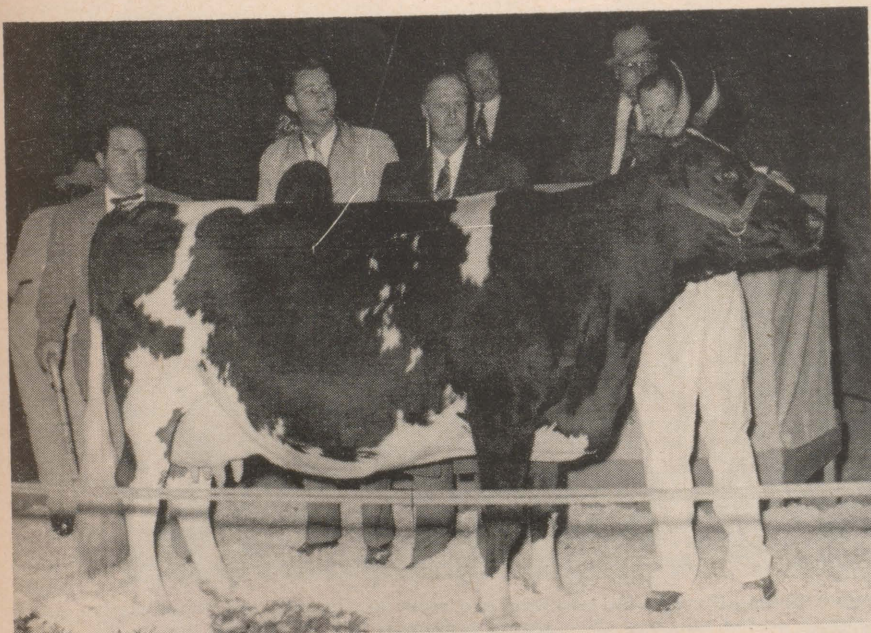
With the Ayrshires must rest most of Quebec's claim to Royal glory, however, and the breed certainly proved to all and sundry this year that Quebec is the homeland of the best in the breed. J. G. Wilson of St. Valentin had Best Herd, Best Senior Get of Sire, and carried away all three of the Chal-

lenge Trophies. R. R. Ness & Sons of Howick had Best Breeder's Herd and stood a close second in the Graded Herd. Aside from that the winnings of the 19 Quebec exhibitors made a very formidable list indeed.

But when one went down the aisles where the Holstein men strutted and preened themselves, Quebec exhibitors were conspicuous by their absence. Only four exhibitors were out and that is a pretty feeble number surely to represent the province which contributed as grandly as any other single place in America to bring the breed to its present peak of excellence. Best win of the lot was a Junior Bull Championship going to a bull shown by Sheffield Farms, Princeville. But for the staunch old dairy province of Quebec to have so few entries, fewer even than the beef province of Alberta, must surely raise a lot of eyebrows.

How is it, some may well ask, that we seem so far behind the western provinces in the enthusiasm with which we treat the Royal? Perhaps part of the answer is in the fact that there is not quite the same pressure put on our good livestock men to send their animals down. Perhaps we need the agency of some fieldmen like the prairie provinces have to gently prod the breeders into a decision to show, and then help them take care of the necessary paper work.

That we have the animals worthy of such a show, is beyond argument.



St. Ignace Mado, six year old Ayrshire cow consigned by Ulysse Bernier of Bedford, Quebec, bought by J. G. Wilson of Alderwood Farm, for \$1,200, in the Sale of the Stars, at the Royal. She has averaged over 11,000 lbs. of milk for her first three lactations, and was 5th Prize Dry Cow, this year.

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

gives a

Report to the Province**Are Farmers Marketing or Accepting Handouts?**

By L. G. YOUNG

EVERYBODY, including the government, has been so occupied finding ways and means of producing two blades of grass where one grew before that few have given any thought to marketing it. Marketing has changed willynilly to fit immediate requirements. If we take a look at livestock marketing, through which the extra blade of grass is sold, we find a situation which is chaotic, disorganized and frequently inefficient. Why has so little thought been given to this "devil-take-the-hindmost" situation?

Perhaps the answer, from the government viewpoint, is that any interference with marketing channels is bound to be resented by someone and apt to be construed as unfair. Improving production methods and techniques is altruistically acceptable and economically beneficial to everyone.

Livestock is marketed through a

number of different channels to-day. Some is shipped directly to a packing plant, some to public stockyards, some is sold to drovers, in certain areas much of the livestock is sold through local weekly auction sales and in other cases it is marketed through co-operatives. How much influence does the farmer have on price?

Theoretically, in a perfect market situation, farmer and buyer would have equally complete knowledge as to current market prices and practices and quality of product. There would also be keen competition among buyers and a final price dictated by supply and demand. None of these conditions exists today. To put it crudely, most farmers make their guess of how to market and hope for the best. When farm income dollars are stretched as tight as they are now, this certainly seems unbusinesslike.

Livestock shipped to public stockyards is bought at competitive auction. However, there are fewer buyers competing as small butchers are finding it more profitable to buy meat on the rail from large packing companies. Also, as more livestock is shipped directly to packing companies, these companies have less incentive to bid. Consequently, the public stockyard price may not be competitive.

If a farmer ships directly to a large packing company, he immediately loses any control of price. Most companies follow the prices established on the public market so he can be reasonably assured of receiving a price roughly in line with that price. However, these public prices are tremendously influenced by actions of a handful of buyers, one of whom is probably the packing company to which he shipped.

Stock sold to drovers is sold on



After a tour, organized by Farrelton Co-op., through the abattoirs and plant of Legrade, Inc. Members saw some of their own beef hanging, on the rail, had their grades explained, and suggestions for improving carcasses. Left to Right: H. H. Last, Dir. of N.D. de La Salette Co-op. J. W. Delaney, Agrome for Gatineau; Jos. Folkes, manager of Legrade's Montreal abattoir; Mr. Canavan, Pres. of Farrelton Co-op. Creamery; L. Laurin, Legrade's Ottawa Valley fieldman; Raymond Daly, Mgr. of Farrelton Co-op. and Paul Dionne, Director of field services for Legrade.



Agriculturists from several European countries on a recent visit to Canada. Shown here at the farm of J. Earl Ness and Sons, near Howick, Quebec. Earl and his son Bob wearing cloth caps at right centre.

a price per head basis with farmer and drover guessing at weight, quality and going market price. The drover, being in the business, is usually the best guesser. This method has been the occasion for many a friendly swig and does provide the illusion that the farmer can actually influence market price. Moreover, it is deeply rooted in tradition.

Local auction sales for livestock have recently blossomed in many areas. Prices at such sales may vary immensely and seemingly without reason. Actually, prices are set by local demand. Occasionally an animal brings a high price, more than it is really worth. At other times prices may be as disastrously low, as local demand is lacking. In addition to haphazard pricing such "community" auction sales in Quebec may be pest holes for disease. They do not have to meet any provincial health inspection and operators are not bonded to guarantee payment to farmers. They do offer the farmer the option of taking his stock home if he is not satisfied.

Co-operative marketing has been increasing steadily in the last few years. The Co-opérative Fédérée owns three large abattoirs located in Montreal, Princeville and Quebec. Regular shipping schedules have been set up so that large trucks and vans transport livestock directly from country shipping points to packing plants. Shipping points are organized by local co-operatives. Managers of such co-ops are informed a week in advance of the prices to be paid for certain grades of stock. Livestock processed in co-op abattoirs remains in

the control of the farmers' organization until sold to wholesaler or retailer, since the abattoirs are owned by the Co-opérative Fédérée which is owned by local co-operatives which are in turn owned by farmers.

Besides having his own employees to sell his stock to best advantage and knowing ahead of time the price he can expect for a certain grade of animal, the farmer receives payment on a dressed weight basis. This means that the farmer receives what the animal is worth as meat — no more, no less. Guessing about weight or grade is eliminated. This type of co-operative marketing does away with auction fees and drovers' profits. It also gives farmers, through their organization, more bargaining power and consequently more control over price of wholesale cuts. Finally, a co-operative, intelligently supported by members, can help them to improve quality of product. Co-operatives, through fieldmen and educational programs, can assist farmers in improving quality and advise when to sell.

At the moment farmers are not well enough organized to be in a strong bargaining position, and they do not know enough about weight, quality and market influences. It is imperative that these two weak points be strengthened. It costs just as much and often more, to raise a poor quality animal as an animal that will make top grade. Having raised it, why throw away part of its value through lack of knowledge of when and where to market.

It may be necessary to lose some

individual independence to organize an efficient marketing system. However, is it better to lose some independence to one's own organization, or all of it to a hit-and-miss market? Are the farmers we see accepting handouts in the market-place today, the independent, bronze-muscled, go-getters we so fondly picture in our imaginations? If not, why not? Perhaps, as High and Low Forest Forum says, they do too much grumbling at home and not enough acting.

For information on marketing see:

Where is the Market-place?

(Farm Forum Guide, Nov. 16)

... how are prices set? Who sets them?

The Farmer in the Market-place

(Farm Forum Guide Nov. 30)

... What are farmers doing?

What can they do and what should they do to influence the price of their products?

Livestock Prices and What Causes Them to Change. (Swift Canadian Co.)

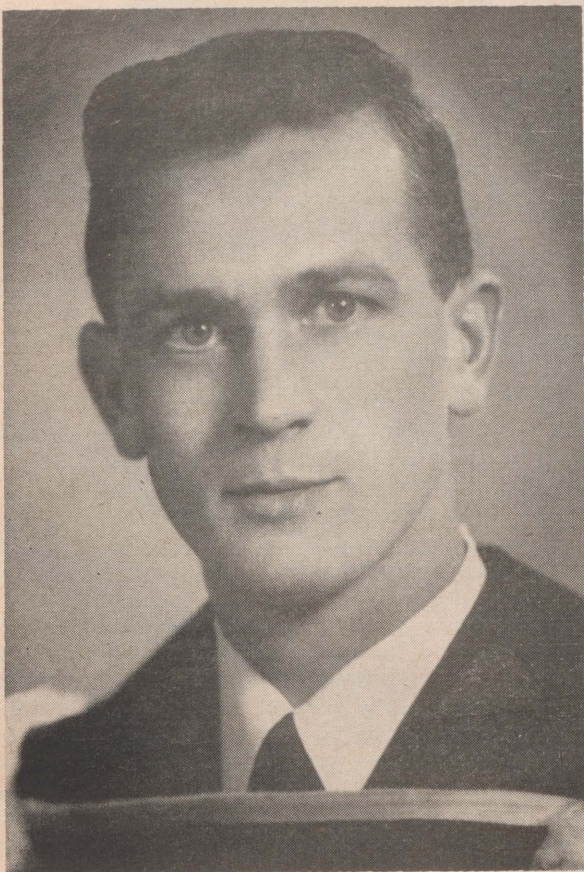
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**LIVESTOCK
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Welcome, John Elliott

Our New Agricultural Field Man at Macdonald

JOHAN G. ELLIOTT, B.Sc., new Agricultural Field Man at Macdonald, succeeding Arnold Hughes, who has left to pursue further studies.

Born in Hull, Que., Mr. Elliott had his early schooling in Aylmer and Ottawa, at Lisgar Collegiate and St. Patrick's College. He came to Macdonald in 1954 and was an active member of his class, including the presidency of the Macdonald Royal. He graduated in the Animal Husbandry option in the spring of '58 and joined the staff of the Canadian Wool Growers, working in turn in Ontario, Nova Scotia and Quebec.

The many aspects of his new job will challenge the initiative and efficiency he has already shown.

Postal Testing Effective

FOR some time past an effort has been made by means of publicity on radio and television and in newspapers and magazines to convince dairy farmers that, in order to make a profit from their herds, they must check the milk production of every one of their cows during each of her lactation periods.

Many farmers have already tried this indispensable method of herd improvement and, once having realized its value as a guide to profitable herd management and selection, they have continued to make use of it.

Unfortunately there are still too many farmers who are apparently indifferent to this system of herd improvement or else have not given serious consideration to an inexpensive (though sometimes long-term) method of finding out exactly the amount of milk produced by each member of a herd which, it should be remembered, represents

a capital investment which has to yield a profit, according to Mr. Fernand Beaudet of the Quebec Livestock Branch.

Many of those who do not keep any records of milk production say that they know which are the good and which are the poor producers in their herds. If they are certain, why do they continue to keep poor cows? Their answer is that they cannot remove them from the herd because they are not quite sure which are the cows whose production is too low. It is therefore evident they need to have some means of detecting these poor producers and for this they need look no further than the postal cow-testing system.

Since this system is specially suited to the needs of farmers with grade dairy herds, they should make use of it. It is available to everybody and the accuracy of the results depends, except in rare cases, on the person who takes the

samples of milk.

Postal cow-testing reveals the individual value of each cow in terms of the weight and butterfat content of her milk. It is not, however, suitable for making comparisons between herds and those who are interested in such comparisons would do better not to use this method.

Postal cow-testing then is the method which should be used by keepers of grade dairy herds. The coming of the atomic age will certainly not render it obsolete because it is the key to success and the basis of profitable management, not only of the herd but also of the farm pastures and crops.

All dairy farmers who are interested in making a profit are strongly advised to make a sound beginning by testing their milking cows by mail. They have a great deal to lose by seeking reasons for neglecting this practical, simple and universally effective method.

THE CHOICE OF A GOOD BOAR

THE selection of good sires is the key to successful animal breeding and it is of the greatest importance in hog raising or any other branch of livestock farming. The qualities of a herd or flock depend in the long run on the merits of the sire and, in general, the more firmly these heritable qualities have been fixed in the male by generations of breeding, the more he can be depended on to transmit them to his progeny.

Since hog raising in Canada is carried on mainly with a view to bacon production, the farmer who, in choosing a boar, is satisfied providing it belongs to one of the bacon or lean-meat breeds, is not going far enough: he should also look for good bacon type.

The first quality required of a boar is that he be pure-bred. His bodily conformation should be such that he can correct some of the faults which may be found in the sow. He should have a predominantly masculine appearance. The face should be wide in front with ample space between the eyes, the shoulder well-developed but smooth. He should show length and depth of body with a flat side, firm limbs and sufficiently strong bone, and his back should be firm and straight or slightly arched. He should be calm and serene in disposition without being sluggish.

Mr. Félix Arsenault of the Quebec Department of Agriculture advises that it is better to wait until a boar is about six months old before buying him; both his good points and his faults will then be more easily seen. Another point to take into consideration when choosing a young boar is his precocity. This means that he should be well — developed for his age.

The future sire should be descended from a line of ancestors of high quality and large litters. Whenever possible the choice should be directed towards a boar whose parents have proved their merit by qualifying under the Advanced Registry progeny testing policy.

In order to encourage the buying and breeding of pure-bred, graded boars the Department of Agriculture of the Province of Quebec offers the following premiums to purchasers:

For a boar graded XXX whose sire and dam have qualified in the Advanced Registry; \$20.00
For a boar graded XXX whose sire or dam have



Keith McCully of Debert, Nova Scotia, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. McCully, has received a \$2,000 agricultural fellowship donated by Canadian Industries Limited. Keith is in his seventh year working toward his Ph.D. degree. He has already received his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in agriculture. The subject of his post graduate studies is, "Zone electrophoresis of blood serum proteins and egg yolk proteins of fowl."

qualified in the Advance Registry; \$12.00
For a boar graded XXX neither of whose parents qualified in the Advance Registry; \$10.00

Boars of the above description can be obtained in the Province of Quebec. Your local agronomer or livestock fieldman will be glad to make it his business to direct you.

WHERE TO SHIP YOUR LIVESTOCK?

To influence the market and to get the most out of your livestock

Ship to your co-op abattoirs:

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Legrade Inc., 1 d'Estimauville St., Quebec.
Coopérative Fédérée de Québec, Princeville.

These three packing houses are owned and controlled by 380 Quebec farm co-ops.

Contact your local co-op for prices guaranteed a week in advance.

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MONTREAL

THE CHOICE OF DAIRY BREEDING STOCK

The newcomer to dairy-farming as well as the established dairyman who has occasion to buy replacements for his herd, are alike faced with a problem of vital importance, inasmuch as each of them has to choose the line or pedigree from which he will select his breeding stock.

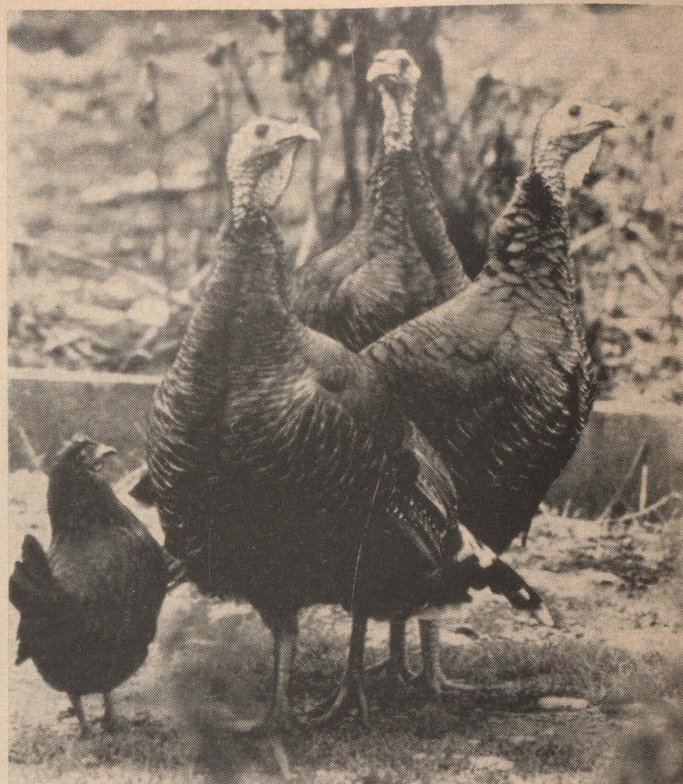
The beginner must first decide what breed he would like to keep, taking into consideration his own likes and dislikes and the demands of his local market. As regards breeding lines, it will pay him to consult the nearest fieldman representing the breed of his choice or the Livestock Branch of the Ministry of Agriculture, or his county agronomer before finally committing himself to any enterprise.

On the other hand, the farmer who has been managing a dairy herd for several years finds himself in a somewhat different position. His herd will very probably consist of a collection of animals descended from different lines and he will therefore be in a favourable position to select replacements and in particular to choose a bull for his herd belonging to the line which has given him the best results and which, all things considered, appears best suited to meet the needs of the local market. When he has made up his mind which line he prefers, he will next pick out the animals which seem to him to be superior from the point of view of health, constitutional vigour and fertility. In making his choice he will attach more importance to a high level of sustained production maintained throughout the life of the animal than to a single period of abundant lactation outstanding though this may sometimes be.

It should always be borne in mind that the indispensable foundation of every creditable and thrifty milk production is a healthy animal with a system capable of absorbing a large quantity of food-stuff and transforming it into a plentiful supply of high quality milk and, furthermore, of maintaining this performance over a very long period of time.

Mr. Claude Hayes of the Artificial Insemination Centre at St. Hyacinthe, suggests the following rules for successful dairy-farming?

1.- Raise superior animals descended from reputable lines;



"HOLY SMOKE!" CRIED THE LITTLE RED HEN — Mrs. Toy Reed's little banty hen who hatched three king-sized eggs last July looks up at her stepchildren in apparent consternation today. "She's a devoted mother, though," the Seattle woman says. "She's always scratching up feed for them." But, as "Mrs. Chicken Little" could tell you, raising children is such a task these days. You just don't know what's to happen to them when they grow up. This is especially true in the little red hen's case, what with the Christmas holidays coming up.

2.- Feed them wisely;

3.- Practice rigorous selection in the light of an intelligent and honest use of milk production testing.

THE MARKETING OF LAMBS

The marketing of lambs, during recent years, has been a seasonal venture, as may be learned from the reports of receipts of livestock at the Montreal stockyards which are published each month by the Dominion Department of Agriculture.

These reports show that the greatest numbers of lambs were received in the months of September, October, November and December whereas, during the rest of the year, that is from January to August, the arrivals were comparatively few.

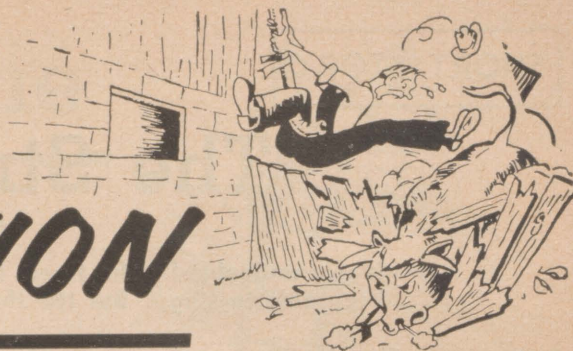
As a result of this off-season scarcity and also because of the fact that the yearling lambs delivered in January, February and March were of poorer quality and less market value, the highest prices for lambs were paid during the months of April, May, June, July and August. Mr. Hugh Peckham of the Livestock Branch of the Quebec Department of Agri-

culture considers that good spring lambs weighing between 20 and 40 pounds and selling at \$15 to \$25 should be raised for marketing in April and May.

Lambs ready for market in June, July and August and weighing 80 to 90 pounds fetch the top prices of the year providing that they are in good flesh and properly developed. Judging by 1958 conditions, prices reach their lowest level, as might be expected, at the time when deliveries of lambs to the stockyards are at their peak, that is from the end of August until December. During this period last year prices fell to the floor level established by the Prices Support Board. Producers who want to get the highest net profit on their lambs should therefore avoid the period when the market is well supplied.

Those who intend to raise lambs for market should plan to rear them so that they are ready for shipping during the period from April to the beginning of August. In all cases it is important to arrange shipments in such a way that the lambs conform to the weight required by the market and thereby qualify for a better grade.

Letters for our BEEF SECTION



STAR-GAZING TIME

Dear Editor:

A Merry Christmas to you and a seasonal thought for your readers. As autumn leaves disappear and the long winter nights begin, the stars grow brighter. Soon the blue-white Vega and bright Deneb will draw Canadian eyes heavenward. While political fortunes and cold-war strategy twist and turn, the stars hold their permanent places in the celestial sphere.

It would be a good thing if the politicians and the diplomats joined farmers and small-townners in the fall and winter sport of star gazing. Men are inclined to plan less feverishly and far more humbly after a session of contemplating Orion or Cetus, or that strange blinking beauty called Cirra, the wonderful one.

If politicians respected the laws of nature with the same degree of awe that star-gazers do, they would hesitate to continue loading the statute books with so many man-made laws. About the only ancient laws that have not become ridiculous are those that call on mankind to love his neighbor and respect his neighbor's property. Time makes a joke of all the other petty little plans and regulations concocted by men in their pride.

Pride is a fault that fades fast when a man studies the stars.

Star Gazer.

PORKY PORK

Dear Mr. Editor:

The many remarks published recently re-useless fat on meat merit consideration, and are particularly applicable to what is sold as bacon.

When one buys that article and places the side bacon in the skillet, it transforms itself into grease with the exception of a thin line or two — just enough to have it masquerade under the name of bacon. The grease is waste.

It is reported that the government of Canada is giving a quantity of pork to help Japanese sufferers,

and that it has a large stock of the stuff in storage. By all means dispose of the pork, but let provision be made for the production of pigs for the manufacture of real bacon with lean in it.

Skillet.

WHAT DO WE EAT?

Dear Sir:

There has been a great deal of information all over this continent about a certain insecticide used on cranberries.

But what about all the other sprays and insecticides, chemical additives, etc., that have been widely used, not only in our food but in many household products in recent years?

Cancer specialists met in Rome from all over the world in August, 1956. They condemned as dangerous, or potentially dangerous, many of the chemicals that are used in the production of our foodstuffs and remain in them as residues. There is a growing number of non-nutritive substances used in the production, processing and refining of our foods.

Many of these modern methods

have not been in use for a sufficiently long enough time for us to know the long-term effect.

W. C. Hueper, MD, chief of the environmental cancer section, U.S. department of health, lists the following as having possible or potential cancer provoking properties: natural and synthetic dyes, thickeners and sweeteners, flavoring agents, detergents, foaming agents, preservatives, chemical sterilizing agents, anti-foaming agents, shortenings, softeners, bleaches, modifiers, meat tenderizers, oil and fat substitutes, emulsifiers, pesticide residues, anti-sprouting agents of fruits and vegetables, insect repellents, hormonal fattening agents, antibiotics (as fed to food animals and added to foodstuffs), pan-glazes, pan-greases, wrapping and coating materials (paraffin, waxes, resins, plastics), coloring agents, non-ionizing radiation products (ultra violet), ionizing radiation (radio active, and radio-active substances).

We do not have enough information on the cancer hazards of many of our modern chemicals...

M. Gray.



Santa Claus — Gone to Town! Eight Santas in London, England, on their way to help in the mailing of letters from spastic children to the Chief Santa Claus in Greenland. All the letters get sent out with Spastic Society seals for use on Christmas mail and parcels.

SHORT STORY

The Strangest Gift

By Nan Albert

It was undoubtedly the finest Christmas concert the Presbyterians had ever been able to stage. But the thanks for its success had to go to a Catholic.

It was Big Jim MacPherson who really hired her. Up in our lonely part of northern Ontario, Big Jim was pretty well the one man that most of us looked to for leadership. He was a pretty good leader too, even though he was a headstrong sort of a fellow who seemed to think that anyone who wasn't Scottish Presbyterian for at least three generations back was open to suspicion.

And if he had one word that sort of put a trademark on him, it was the word sterling. When he would sit down at a school meeting or anywhere else where the young people came up for discussion, he wouldn't just out and say that "youth was going to the dogs and doggone fast" as Joe Harvey might insist. Jim would tilt his big grizzled head half toward the ceiling and say, "It's just that today's young ones don't have much conception of the sterling qualities. That's all."

So when came that fall just after the war when teachers were as scarce as new cars, Big Jim, no doubt still had the sterling virtues in mind as much as ever, but he just didn't have much of a chance to insist upon getting the right kind of person to teach them.

When Miss MacDonald was given the job, it was simply because Big Jim had so few applications to choose from. She was a mite of a thing, with too many freckles, and an easy going face that had obviously never been designed to instil the discipline of fear into any but the most tractable of pupils. But her name at least, was to Big Jim's liking.

But we can all be wrong in sizing up a person. Even a man with the insight and experience of Big Jim can be wrong. And Big Jim was. Miss MacDonald took hold of the twenty odd urchins in our little frame school as if they were all her very own. I guess the school up our way was noisier with Miss MacDonald back of the desk than it ever had been before, but the children seemed to

learn, just the same. And you can forgive a teacher almost anything if your progeny just keep on mastering the Three R's.

Big Jim complained rather caustically about the discipline until the day one of the big Holsum girls took her scissors and cut the tip off Mary Harvey's mitt. One more hole wouldn't matter, she said. Miss MacDonald made the Holsum girl stay in after four every night with her knitting needles, until the new tip was perfect and until every other hole in both mitts was filled in too.

"Got backbone to her, after all," Big Jim said.

Then came the time when the minister's son saw Bill Harvey passing a note down the aisle in his reader to one of the girls, and told the teacher on him. Miss MacDonald stood both of them up in the corner, the one for passing the note and the other for tattling. She didn't like a tattler, she said.

Big Jim took notice again. "She was right 100 percent," he said. "And I'm surprised that a good Presbyterian boy would do a thing like that. Tattling is something you might expect in the Irish, maybe. Or in the kind of races that make Communists. But a good Scottish lad ought to know better."

Big Jim was still in agreement with the new teacher when one of his own lads helped to break a couple of windows Hallowe'en night up at the Orange Hall. Miss MacDonald knew that they did it because she was out Hallowe'ening herself that night, but no one recognized her. She found jobs for all three of those boys splitting hardwood, at the Widow Morgan's where she was boarding. They got 10 cents an hour. And when they offered to pay for the window out of money brought from home instead, she wouldn't hear of it. They worked hard for that bit of fun.

It was shortly after that when Big Jim and the minister came up to the Widow Morgan's one night and asked Miss MacDonald if she'd mind organizing a Sunday School.

The minister had about four other kirks to take in on a Sunday, and he had his hands full. And, who else but the teacher was there, to take hold of a job like that?

Miss MacDonald took the job and she did it well. She worked hard, she taught well and she was enough of an organizer to keep the church basement pretty well filled. Big Jim and the minister congratulated her and then themselves. "We knew you could do it," they told her.

It was when Miss MacDonald was working day and night and spending most of her spare money on costumes for the Christmas concert that the blow fell. The Widow Morgan started a rumor that shook the community from one end to the other. One day she said to Mrs. Harvey. "You know, I think it's almost saintly the way that poor girl is working herself to the bone to get up this Sunday School concert. Especially when she isn't even a Presbyterian to begin with. Not even a Protestant, in fact!"

The news wasn't long in getting down to Big Jim. "Can't be," he said. "MacDonald's as sound a name as ever came out of Scotland." But he went down to see the teacher at the Widow's one night, just the same.

"I tried to tell you I wasn't a Presbyterian," Miss MacDonald said, looking a bit scared. "Only you cut me off and said it didn't matter what I was, so long as I could read the quarterly. I-I'm sorry, Mr. MacPherson."

Big Jim went to the minister next, and they pondered it a long time. "She certainly read those quarterlies just as good as a Presbyterian," he said.

Jim said what had fooled him so completely, was the way she seemed to show so much integrity. Seemed such a sterling sort.

Well, they couldn't very well stop her now. Not even if they figured it would be best. And besides, neither Jim nor the minister nor anyone else they talked

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The Country Lane

THE HURON CAROL

'Twas in the moon of winter-time,
When all the birds had fled,
That mighty Gitchi-Manitou
Sent angel choirs instead;
Before their light the stars grew dim,
And wondering hunters heard the hymn.

Jesus your King is born,
Jesus is born,
Jesus Ahatonia!

Within a lodge of broken bark
The tender Babe was found,
A ragged robe of rabbit skin
Enwrapped his beauty round;
But as the hunter braves drew nigh,
The angel song rang loud and high.

Jesus your King is born,
Jesus is born,
Jesus Ahatonia!

The earliest moon of winter-time
Is not so round and fair
As was the ring of glory on
The helpless Infant there,
And chiefs from far before Him knelt
With gifts of fox and beaver-pelt.

Jesus your King is born,
Jesus is born,
Jesus Ahatonia!

O children of the forest free,
O sons of Manitou,
The Holy Child of earth and heaven
Is born today for you.
Come, kneel before the radiant Boy
Who brings you beauty, peace and joy.

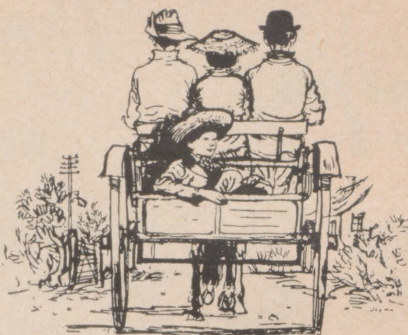
Jesus your King is born,
Jesus is born,
Jesus Ahatonia!

*Father Jean de Brebeuf,
(Jesuit Missionary, 1593-1649.)*

GIFTS

What can I give to you that you may keep?
What will survive the ravages of time?
A star that shines upon you as you sleep?
A paper scrap that holds a bit of rhyme?
My hill to climb, when living is too much?
The crescent of my little view of sea?
When all the stars are dim, my hand to touch
That you may know I love you tenderly?
The sharing of your want, by day or night?
In careful custody, your dreams to hold?
Walks in the rain, the peace of firelight;
Togetherness, as lasting bright as gold?
I offer these, but if you should not heed,
I offer you the heart I shall not need.

—Beulah Fenderson Smith



A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Before the paling of the stars,
Before the winter morn,
Before the earliest cock crow
Jesus Christ was born:
Born in a stable,
Cradled in a manger,
In the world His hands had made
Born a stranger.

Priest and king lay fast asleep
In Jerusalem,
Young and old lay fast asleep
In crowded Bethlehem:
Saint and angel, ox and ass,
Kept a watch together,
Before the Christmas daybreak
In the winter weather.

Jesus on His mother's breast
In the stable cold,
Spotless Lamb of God was He,
Shepherd of the fold:
Let us kneel with Mary maid,
With Joseph bent and hoary,
With saint and angel, ox and ass,
To hail the King of Glory.

Christina Rossetti.

CHRISTMAS FAIRYTALE

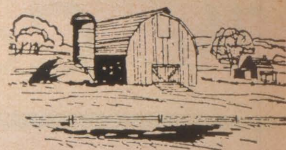
I know the tale I tell will seem
The baseless fabric of a dream:
I tell of one, who, Christmastime,
Displayed a spirit so sublime,
With unfeigned gratitude, she took
Three pin balls and a needle book,
Four doileys, and a hairpin case,
And two small trays received with grace.
She recognized without a tear
The crocheted doiley sent last year
To a dear absent minded friend,
Who, back again, the gift did send.
Without a frown, this angel took
Two copies of the selfsame book;
Accepted with a happy face,
Three hatpin bottles trimmed with lace;
She had no scornful thought or hard,
For a much travelled Christmas card.
And, greatest miracle of all,
As she received her last pin ball,
Not even in her heart did say:
"They will be good to give away."

Anonymous.



The Better Impulse

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE
WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF QUEBEC



A Christmas Message From Our President

"And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room in the inn."

St. Luke 2:7

*"They must have been tired and discouraged
That night when they came to the inn,
And the heart of the wearied Mary
Must have wept from the depths within,
When they gave her a bed in the stable
To mother her precious care;
But the hope of the world was
born anew*

*When Jesus was cradled there.
The blue of the sky for a shelter,
As the stars looked down on the earth —
Only they, and the lowing cattle
Had witnessed the Saviour's birth;
But the angels sang forth their story,
Which down through the ages will ring:
'Unto you this day in Bethlehem
Is born a Saviour and King!'*"

THE inn at Bethlehem, limited in size, was filled with guests. Most of them were kindly people who, among strangers and intent upon their own affairs, failed to notice a late coming couple and their need. Jesus was born in a stable because his parents were crowded out of the inn by GOOD people who failed to pay attention to another's need.

Our lives, like that ancient inn, have sharp limitations. So, we must choose how we would invest our limited strength, time, money and ability.

As we approach the Christmas season, our thoughts turn reverently to the lowly shepherds tend-

ing their flocks on the Judean hills, and the story of the Christ Child softens our hearts, fills us with generous emotions and enriches our lives by unselfish giving. Our Christmas customs are wonderful — the renewing of friendships, the happy hospitality and the giving of gifts — but in the hurry and flurry of preparations, the shopping, the carols and the visiting, let us not lose sight of the fact that the truest and most lasting happiness in the world is in doing something for others. May the message of Peace and Brotherhood, that first found lodgement in the hearts of Judea's simple shepherds, fill our hearts

at this season! Let us catch and retain throughout the year this Christmas inspiration. May we face the New Year with hearts brimming with hope and a fervent prayer on our lips that ere another year rolls by, we may more truly sing 'Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men.'

So, as I come into your homes at this holiday season with my greetings and best wishes for a Merry Christmas, may God's Blessing and His Peace surround and enfold you, and those dear to you, in the coming year!

Yours for "Home and Country."
(Mrs. G.D.) Anne MacD. Harvey
Provincial President, Q.W.I.Inc.



Three W.I. branches in Shefford Co. chartered a bus and visited the Montreal Botanical Gardens, this summer. Miss Sample, (wearing the dark dress,) is 90 years young.



Presidents from the 10 Provinces, at the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada Biennial Board Meeting in Charlottetown, this summer.

OFFICE HAPPENINGS

WE have received word of the death in October of Mr. Laird, husband of Mrs. Laird, the Editor of Federated News and on your behalf a letter of sympathy has been sent.

NOTE: Letter received from the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, saying that WI branches from Quebec had requested quantities of their pamphlets, many of which have been out of print for some time.

The pamphlets now available are: Buy by Grade, Beans (recipes), Eggs (recipes), Salads, Apples, Cheese Dishes, The Art of Making Sandwiches, Potatoes (recipes), Salada Pub. 1050, Jams, Jellies, and Pickles, Home Canning of Fruits and Vegetables, Freezing Foods. The address is: Information Division, Dept of Agriculture, Ottawa. The book, Meat, How to Buy, How to Cook, may be had from Queen's Printer, Ottawa, price 50c a copy.

They have had so many requests from other groups besides WI, that they have had to cut down on distribution in quantity. They would prefer to send one set to a branch, but if a WI plans to study a special project, they will try to supply the necessary material.

News of more bursaries and scholarships. Compton County reports two: Miss Patricia Gordon, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wm.



Mrs. D. Wishart, of Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Jacques Cartier Branch, placing the wreath on the cenotaph at the Armistice Day Services.

Gordon, of Scotstown, has received the Hon. C. D. French Memorial Bursary. Miss Gordon is enrolled in the course leading to degree of Bachelor of Education, at Macdonald College.

Miss Veronica Hall, daughter of Mrs. and Mrs. Wm. Hall, of Birchton, was awarded the Compton County Women's Institute Bursary of \$100. Miss Hall is attending Sherbrooke Hospital School of Nursing."

In Stanstead County, the Estella Holmes Scholarship of \$100, was won by Miss Daphne Minor of the Princess Elizabeth High School, Magog. Miss Minor is in the Class III Diploma Class of teaching at Macdonald College.

From the Office — May your Christmas be happy and the New Year bright with promise.

At the November meeting of the Montreal Council of Women, the principal speaker was Miss Sybil Ross, Exec. Assistant, Montreal Council of Social Agencies, her topic, "What Is Recreation?" She emphasized that what is important is the 'wise use' of recreation. Children should be allowed to develop their own individual needs in play. Also, young children should not be urged to take part in competitive activities for which they are not emotionally ready. The many questions from mothers, following her talk showed their deep concern. Miss Ross indicated there is a feeling that too much emphasis is on winning teams. If merely for the prestige of the club, or school, it is not a good sign. Miss Ross suggested that the whole idea of the trend in recreation today needed consideration.

Mrs. Ellard and Mrs. Ossington report that at the Edinburgh Conference the delegates from other countries were delighted with the QWI maple leaf pins.

New Program Manuals are in the process of being revised, but the same courses will be given with the addition of Nutrition, Sewing and Tailoring, House Planning and Home Decorating to be taught by Miss King. Applications may be sent in now.

There are plenty more Annual Reports at the Office if you need them.

The Month With The W.I.

THE poppy has a prominent place in the programs reported for November and many branches assisted with their sale. The Service Fund has not been forgotten, and donations to UNICEF are mentioned very frequently. I had hoped to report, "All Counties are accounted for this month," but we are three short of this goal.

ARGENTEUIL:

ARUNDEL held a Blind Auction Sale. Mr. Tony Bapaski of the CNIB spoke to the BROWNSBURG WI. Proceeds from the Handicraft Tea went to the Home for the Aged Fund. A second Golden Age Tea was held, attended by 60 guests. This is a project where WI members entertain the senior citizens of the community, an undertaking that is appreciated by the guests. FRONTIER held their Publicity Meeting, at which Mrs. N. Morrison told of her recent trip to Great Britain and the ACWW Conference. A donation was made to the Home for the Aged Fund. JERUSALEM-BETHANY were shown one member's colored slides, and a Military Whist was held. Plans were made to complete several quilts during the winter months. LACHUTE had an exhibit and talk on Canadian Antique Furniture and china. Sold UNICEF cards, and held a Home Cooking sale, and heard a report of the Board Meeting. MORIN HEIGHTS entertained the High School teaching staff, and saw slides of New York City, the Azores and Europe. An essay, "Things My Grandmother Taught Me," was read to UPPER LACHUTE-EAST END and arrangements made to complete four quilts.

BONAVENTURE:

BLACK CAPE used for their roll call, "Something I Am Thankful For." Rev. K. Fenton showed slides of the village of Tillney All Saints in England. These proved very interesting, as a member of the WI in this English village visited Black Cape last summer. MARCIL report that they distributed \$204.65 in prize money at the School Fair, sponsored jointly with Port Daniel. Plans were made for the Hallowe'en Shell-Out and members reported hearing report of the ACWW Conference on Trans Canada Matinee. GRAND CASCAPEDIA made plans for entertaining the Semi-Annual meeting and for a masquerade dance. MATAPEDIA had one of its largest meetings of the year. Plans were made for Young Canada Book Week, two sales and a tea. Mrs. V. MacNaughton was presented with an electric kettle. PORT DANIEL met in the auditorium of the Catholic School and had the teachers of both local schools as guests. Mrs. R. Prevost of Marcil WI described a trip to her former home in England. Slides of Port Daniel and vicinity were shown by Miss D. Macdonald. RESTIGOUCHE welcomed a new member and sent a gift to a hospital patient. The President reported on the Jewellery course by Miss Runnells.

BROME:

AUSTIN had "Beefs on Education" for a roll call. Repairs have been made, and cedar trees planted at the WI hall. SOUTH BOLTON had an auction sale and heard a talk on Arabia by Mrs. Carter. SUTTON

members exchanged recipes, heard a paper on Home Economics, and donated socks, bootees and 3 quilts to the Red Cross.

CHATEAUGUAY-HUNTINGDON:

AUBREY-RIVERFIELD had a visit from Mrs. Palmer, County President and entertained the high school teachers. One teacher described experiences teaching juvenile delinquents in a correctional school. Donated 114 cans of applesauce to the high school cafeteria, and raised money serving lunches to the Calf Club. Donation sent to the Service Fund and a prize awarded to a pupil in Grade IX. A muffin making demonstration was given. UNICEF cards sold and cotton for Cancer dressings brought in. DEWITT-VILLE heard an article on the life of the Governor General. DUNDEE had a Health Quiz and a talk on physiognomic medicine. The semi-annual report was given. HEMMINGFORD have 14 layettes for Unitarian Relief completed. A talk on Health and Agriculture in Africa was given and a White Elephant Sale held. HOWICK had a demonstration on making Christmas candles and a talk on Money Management and Budgetting. A \$25 scholarship was awarded to Howick pupils with highest standing in Grades IX and X. Donation to the Service Fund and County Fund. HUNTINGDON heard the semi-annual report, and had a demonstration on making artificial flowers. Their roll call was "A Canadian University and its Location." ORMSTOWN sponsored the UNICEF Hallowe'en collection among high school pupils. Results were splendid. A card party was held and \$18 donated to Ormstown High School and Notre Dame School for prizes in Home Economics and Public Speaking.

COMPTON:

BURY heard the semi-annual report, and an article on "The Jewish Contribution to Canada." Catered for the Calf Club banquet and assisted at the School Fair. CANTERBURY planned a Christmas party and planned boxes for shut-ins. An apron sale was held and money donated to the Blind Fund. EAST ANGUS ordered 5 doz. spoons for the WI room, and 2 dz. cups and saucers were donated by members. Mrs. LaTullippe of the Singer Sewing Machine Co. gave a demonstration. Soft drinks and prizes were provided at a party for children collecting for UNICEF. A paper drive was held and prizes donated to the school for most improvement in Health in Grades 1 to VII. UNICEF cards were sold. EAST CLIFTON sold UNICEF cards and planned a Hallowe'en party. SCOTSTOWN entertained the semi-annual meeting and sent a donation of jams and jellies to the Wales Home. Used stamps were sent to the Junior Red Cross, and articles to the Cecil Memorial Home. A film, "This is Canada," was shown and a rummage sale and paper drive held. Donation to Service Fund and UNICEF cards sold. A contest of questions and answers on Citizenship was held.

GASPE:

SANDY BEACH members brought in some layettes, and gave "A Gift for a Child" for their roll call. All

members paid into the Save and Children Fund, and talent money was given in. The Publicity Convenor read a paper entitled "Fear Children to Die of Hunger, Unless Charity Provides Food." Hints on cooking were given by the Home Economics Convenor and Fair prizes given out. WAKEHAM named, "A County in Which WI Work is Carried On," as roll call, had a sale of fancy cookies and sent proceeds to UNICEF. Completed 11 Layettees, and planned a Christmas sale. YORK had a masquerade party and planned annual Christmas party. The Citizenship Convenor read a poem entitled "What Could I Give For Christmas?" and the Publicity Convenor read a poem about the Yukon WI. A Bible contest was held.

GATINEAU:

AYLMER EAST — Guest speaker, Mrs. Ross Brown, spoke on Home Economics. Mrs. H. Ellard gave a most interesting account of her trip to the ACWW Conference. Mrs. R. Miller reported the semi-annual meeting and a No Bake Sale was held. BRECKENRIDGE had an interesting roll call "What Success Was Your Garden This Year?" Two Firsts, two Seconds and a Third prize were taken at the AYLMEER Exhibition. Made plans to celebrate the 40th birthday of Gatineau County WI. EARDLEY-Mrs. S. Robinson spoke on the Fair Convention; Mrs. H. Nugent read an article "Are Weeds Good For Anything?" Articles were brought in for Unitarian Relief. LOWER EARDLEY will celebrate their Sixth Birthday with a dinner. A donation was given to the Brookdale Farm Home as a Christmas gift. Mrs. D. Nesbit read an article, "What is Citizenship?" and a new member was welcomed. KAZABAZUA-heard a reading on "The Beginning of Quilting," and 25c articles were sold. A Memorial Service at the Queen Elizabeth School was sponsored. RUPERT-report a good response to Hallowe'en Shell-Out; poppies were sold in schools, and UNICEF cards ordered. WAKEFIELD-Dr. Stuart Geggie gave a talk on the new hospital to be built in Wakefield. A fund was started, to be called "The Gatineau Women's Building Fund." WRIGHT-Mrs. B. Moodie gave a reading on "Our Resources," and then held a quiz on the subject. Each member spoke for 1 minute on a Canadian Industry, Miss Derby the winner. Won 9 prizes at the AYLMEER Fair. Mr. Adamson, principal of Queen Elizabeth School, spoke on "Definition of Good Citizenship." Roll call was "Should We Have a Canadian Flag?"

MEGANTIC:

INVERNESS will send Christmas gifts to needy children. Had a talk on a Boy's Camp, gift presented to member moving away and UNICEF cards ordered.

MISSISQUOI:

COWANSVILLE's roll call, "Your Favourite TV or Radio Program." Favourites were "Front Page Challenge," and Radio Station CJAD. Mrs. Walker spoke of a recent trip to Europe, and all convenors gave 5 minute talks. UNICEF cards sold, and a rummage sale planned. FORDYCE-bought poppies and named a Canadian ship as their roll call. Convenors reports were on — Agriculture; Penicillin in Milk; Education, Home Economics; CAC report; Publicity, WI prizes and a poem "For the Fallen." Mrs. David, in charge of program, reported on ACWW Conference and read an article about a Finnish girl coming to Canada.

Were entertained by Waterloo-Warden at lunch and a tour of Mack Molding Company. Quilt completed and UNICEF cards sold.

PAPINEAU:

LOCHABER named famous Canadians for a roll call — Charlotte Whitton and Ellen Fairclough leading. Citizenship Convenor read items from address by Hon. Ellen Fairclough entitled "The High Cost of Discrimination." UNICEF cards and poppies sold and bursary discussed. Bazaar followed meeting.

PONTIAC:

BEECHGROVE, members heard a Paper on Food Rules and planned a dance. CLARENDON donated: money to buy bulbs for the park, dishtowels for the school and will make award to Grade VI. Talk on nutrition was heard.

ELMSIDE bought poppies and UNICEF cards, saw a film of Hilton Iron Mine at Bristol, and donated fruit, vegetables and canned goods to local hospital. FORT COULONGE purchased Remembrance Day wreath for Cenotaph and will sell Christmas cards to aid crippled children. Home Economics Convenor read papers on "The Care of Rugs," and "Sugar Beets and Their Value." Food sale was held. QUYON had demonstration on making plastic jewellery, a cookie contest and sale. Plans made for Shell-Out. SHAWVILLE-entertained teaching staff of the school. Welfare and Health Convenor talked of the Blood Donor Clinic. Slides of Europe were shown and talk "What is Education?" given. UNICEF cards sold. WYMAN entertained teachers from Quyon school, heard talk "What is Education?" and had "Suggestions For the Convention."

QUEBEC:

VALCARTIER sent money to Service Fund, and planned card party. Roll Call was answered with a household hint; two films were shown, "Jam and Jelly Making" and the "Romance of Robert Burns." Linen for cancer dressings, and clothes for Unitarian Relief were donated.

RICHMOND:

CLEVELAND held social afternoon to mark end of enthusiastic week of rugmaking with Miss Runnells. Papers were read on Remembrance Day, How to Soften Wax, a Radio Recipe, and Threat to Health. Donated prizes for general proficiency in Grades VI-A, VI-B, and money for hot lunch fund, at St. Francis High School. DENISON MILLS discussed various money-raising ideas. Money from an Off To the Races game was given UNICEF, and from Waist Measurement contest to the Sunshine Fund. Food baskets and cards to sick members. GORE served lunch at a Plowing Match. Smocking lessons held and jams sent to Wales Home; gifts to sick child and patients in hospital. Money sent to UNICEF. MELBOURNE RIDGE catered for Canadian Legion Banquet and will have a quilting bee. Donations to Service Fund and hot lunch fund at St. Francis High School. RICHMOND-HILL Newspaper clipping on Education was the roll call. Successful chicken pie supper. Two contests, Fruit and Vegetables, and School Subjects. Clothing will be collected for Cecil Memorial Home. RICHMOND YOUNG WOMEN'S entertained husbands at social

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A matinée coat and a bonnet knitted by Mrs. Mary Pashley, aged 77, of Gidea Park, Essex, England, has been accepted by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, for the baby she is expecting in the new year. Mrs. Pashley has been knitting, crocheting and embroidering since her childhood days in an Irish convent. All her patterns are original, and the Royal baby clothes are from Mrs. Pashley's own design.

THE W.I. . . (Continued)

hour. Tea was held and money sent to UNICEF. SHIPTON entertained County President, Mrs. Jamieson and 18 members of Spooner Pond W.I. Military Whist parties and UNICEF collection planned. SPOONER POND heard about W.I. branch in the Yukon and an article on His Excellency the Governor General. Contest for grandmothers was held and auction of aprons. WINDSOR plan to celebrate 20th Anniversary of branch. Donation to Service Fund and UNICEF cards sold. This county sponsored a very successful card party. The Publicity Convenors formed a committee and all branches contributed prizes and lunch.

ROUVILLE:

ABBOTSFORD gave party for children who collected for Shell Out. Prizes were given for best costumes. 30th Anniversary of branch celebrated by luncheon and cards in Sonnehof Tea Room.

SHEFFORD:

GRANBY HILL planned a members' night. Donated to Salvation Army. Cooking contest was held. GRANBY WEST will take First Aid Course and make pads for invalids. Members donated \$50 towards Cafeteria meals for child in Granby High School. WATERLOO-WARDEN entertained Fordyce W.I. had as roll call, "Name a Vitamin and Its Source." Paper read on Polio, TV Quiz held, and UNICEF cards sold.

SHERBROOKE

ASCOT held rummage sale and gave beaded screen to Lennoxville High School. Showed slides of flower

THERE'S A RIGHT WAY TO WATER HOUSE PLANTS

"Water the plants, please."

So either little Johnnie or his dad fills up the pitcher and pours; that's all. When the pitcher is empty, the job is done. The plant's water supply always depends on the size of that pitcher.

What if the plant didn't get enough water? It would grow poorly, shed leaves and show the dull-est of foliage. Too much water? The roots and plant parts at the soil level would die and decay because of lack of soil oxygen.

You must get the proper amount on those plants. But how? Horticulturists suggest viewing the problem with these factors in mind: Temperature, humidity, light, soil, type of plant, age of plant, growth rate and size of container.

How can you tell when a plant needs water? First, look at the condition of the soil surface, or tap the pot. A dry pot will give a clear sound when tapped; a wet one will give a dull sound. And don't forget that water has weight—a wet pot is heavier.

When watering, add enough water to wet the soil to the bottom of the pot. If the plant is in a warm area and is growing quickly, then daily watering may be necessary. Other cases may call for only weekly watering. Water early in

(Please turn to page 20)



and vegetable gardens of local interest, and bought UNICEF cards. Life Membership presented to Mrs. Thos. Billings. BELVIDERE had Singer Sewing Machine demonstration, apron contest and parade. Members worked at Cancer Station. BROMPTON ROAD enjoyed tour of local TV and Radio Station. Catered to Plowman's Luncheon and renewed magazine subscription for war veteran. Contests held in baking rolls and making hats. LENNOXVILLE enjoyed address by Mrs. Abercrombie who attended ACWW Conference. Food sale and UNICEF cards sold. Roll call was "Why I Am Glad I Am a Canadian," MILBY donated vegetables to Grace Christian Home in Huntingville, and planned Hallowe'en Shell-Out. All branches contributed prizes and lunches to School Fair.

STANSTEAD:

AYER'S CLIFF collected for UNICEF. Purchased gifts for baby shower, and for a child with broken leg. BEEBE entertained teachers and school board members at a supper.

All nine branches of Stanstead Co. held a shower of jams, jellies and pickles for the county president who was ill in hospital at canning time. A nice gesture, and we hope that Madame President is now fully recovered.

RECIPE PAGE

Christmas Trimmings



WHO can say when the climax of Christmas comes? Is it bedtime on Christmas Eve when the children hang up the biggest stockings they can find, or the morning's bustle and rustle as packages are opened? Or perhaps for you it's the magic moment when the tree is first lighted and a hundred glittering ornaments spring to life in its branches.

Well, we all have our favorite moments, but certainly a special kind of climax for every family is Christmas dinner — a big wonderful meal with traditional trimmings to set off the crisp brown turkey, and a beautifully decorated table. Here are a few ideas for Christmassy turkey stuffings, and a new and wholesome candy recipe.



Stuffings expand when cooked, so pack them lightly, filling the bird about $\frac{3}{4}$ full. Plan on about 1 cup stuffing for each pound of turkey-ready-for-the-oven.

Apple Celery Stuffing

- 6 cups soft stale bread crumbs
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ cup finely chopped celery
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup finely chopped onion
- $1\frac{3}{4}$ teaspoon salt
- $\frac{3}{4}$ teaspoon sage
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup melted butter

Toss ingredients together. Makes 6 cups.

Fruit Stuffing

- 3 cups toasted stale bread crumbs
 - $\frac{1}{2}$ cup melted butter
 - 1 tablespoon grated orange peel
 - $\frac{1}{2}$ cup cut-up orange sections
 - $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups diced celery
 - 2 cups cut-up cooked prunes
 - 1 teaspoon salt
 - $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon poultry seasoning
- Toss lightly to blend. Makes 6 cups stuffing.

Sausage Stuffing

- 2 pounds pure pork sausage meat
- 2 cups water
- 14 cups dry bread cubes
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup chopped onion
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup chopped parsley
- 2 cups chopped celery
- 2 teaspoons salt

Pan-fry sausage until brown and well cooked. Combine all ingredients, mixing well. Stuff bird just before roasting.

Bread Stuffing

- 1 cup butter or shortening
- 1 cup minced onion
- 1 quart chopped celery
- 4 quarts bread cubes, firmly packed (use 2-to-4-day-old bread)
- 1 tablespoon salt
- $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 teaspoon pepper
- 2 teaspoons poultry seasoning
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 cups broth, milk or water.

Cook onion and celery in fat over low heat, stirring until onion

is tender, not browned. Blend bread cubes with seasonings. Pour into vegetables and mix well. Add enough liquid to moisten, stirring lightly. Check seasonings and add more to taste. Makes enough for a 14-to-18-pound turkey.

Spiced Raisin Confection

- 2 cups light raisins, or light and dark mixed
- 1 cup sugar
- $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. each cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves and allspice
- Pinch of salt
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- $\frac{1}{3}$ cup milk

Wash raisins and dry thoroughly. Combine sugar, spices and salt in small saucepan. Add milk and cook slowly, stirring until sugar is dissolved. Boil rapidly to soft ball stage, 234°F. and remove from heat. Add vanilla and raisins and stir until mixture loses its gloss. Drop by teaspoonsful onto waxed paper. Cool.

Are We Running Short of Land?

CANADA is in danger of running out of good agricultural land within the foreseeable future, a farm authority warned today in announcing plans for a nation-wide campaign to promote certified seed as the best seed which farmers can use to improve commercial crops.

"Strange though it may seem to the urban Canadian", said W. L. Shannon, Secretary-Treasurer of The Canadian Seed Growers' Association Inc., "this country is fast approaching the time when there will not be enough suitable farm land to maintain agriculture as a leading industry.

"Even with a population density of only $4\frac{1}{2}$ persons per square mile — as compared to 540 in the United Kingdom — this is a very real danger", said Mr. Shannon.

"Public speakers talk of our 'millions of square miles of undeveloped land'. The fact is that most of the land is absolutely incapable of being adapted to any kind of agriculture."

Mr. Shannon proceeded to say that we must make the best use of the good land we have today, by increasing yield per acre and achieving more efficient food production from existing farm land. One way by which this can be accomplished is through the use of quality seed.

Referring to the campaign, Wesley E. Henderson, Administrative Officer (Education) of the Association said, "In this activity the farmers of Canada are strictly setting out to help themselves. This is surely one of many answers to those who accuse our farmers of seeking government support and aid and never initiating projects to improve their own industry."

Mr. Henderson went on to say that certified seed is more weed-free, disease resistant generally and will give higher yields than common seed.

"Over and beyond its own merits as seed," he added, "crops grown from quality seed could result in better meat and beef cattle, and more and better milk from dairy cattle. So, all in all, this self-help project on the part of Canada's seed-growers can — and I believe will — greatly improve the state of the Dominion's entire agricultural industry."

In the campaign to improve seed

quality — a project without precedent in the history of Canadian seed growing — approximately six thousand of the nation's farmers are pooling funds to finance a coast-to-coast educational, advertising and publicity program.

The drive is being co-ordinated and directed by The Canadian Seed Growers' Association, with offices in the Kent-Albert building in Ottawa. It will be financed by a "per-acre" levy on all of the farmer-members of the Association, which has retained the services of MacLaren Advertising Co. Limited for the project.

Mr. Henderson and Mr. Shannon will be in charge of the campaign. From MacLaren Advertising, there will be the services of J. W. Huxley, Account Supervisor, and Lorne Leach, Account Executive, both members of the agency's Farm Department and both university graduates in agriculture.

Intensive planning for the campaign is now underway, with special emphasis on farm publications and radio, and with a starting target of mid-1960.

THE STRANGEST GIFT

(Continued from page 12)

to, seemed to figure it would be best. In fact, come to ponder it a bit, maybe she deserved more credit now than if she had been a Protestant. What about giving her a real presentation at that concert?

Good idea, said everybody they talked to, but what would they get her?

I'm not sure whether the idea was Jim's or the minister's, or whether it was one of those inspirations which seems to come most easily at Christmas, but the gift they presented to Miss MacDonald that night, was the best rosary they could find in the catalogue.

POINTS TO CONSIDER IN BUYING SWEATERS

If you have ever puzzled over the advantages of full fashioned, cut-and-sewn, and stretched sweaters, this information may be of help to you.

Full fashioned means the same thing in sweaters as in hosiery; each part of the sweater, back, front and sleeves, is knit-to-fit. It's shaped as it's knit, just as a sock is shaped by increasing and decreasing stitches. Marks which indicate shaping will be found around armholes, sleeves, sides and sometimes the neckline. Full fashioned sweaters should hold their shape well and also, since each piece is bound off, they shouldn't ravel.

Cut-and-sewn sweaters, on the other hand, are cut out of knit yardage in the same way that a blouse would be cut out of jersey. This method is faster and less costly than knitting to a shaped pattern. However, unless each piece is well cut, exactly on the straight of the material, it's apt to sag and twist with wearing and washing. While many serviceable and good looking sweaters are made this way, it pays to check the workmanship before buying. Make sure the lengthwise rib of such a cardigan is parallel to the edge of the front openings. Seams should be well stitched and finished so the cut edges can't ravel.

A stretched sweater is one that's stretched to shape and size while it's being knit. This method may make a small piece of material go a long way but when the sweater is washed, it's apt to go back to the original, pre-stretched size. Then it may be a size or so too small. To spot these, pull a small portion of the knit between your fingers. If it doesn't stretch very much (as a good quality does), or if the knit looks thin and loose, the chances are it has been stretched to size.

HOUSE PLANTS

(Continued from page 18)

the day so that the plants are not soaked overnight.

A Few Extras:

—Don't wet the foliage—it may lead to disease.

—If chemically softened water causes injury, use rain water or melted snow.

—Water the plant from the top every two weeks, even when you water from a dish under the pot. If you don't, crystals of soil nutrients will form on the surface and cause injury.

—Some house plants are harmed by cold water right from the tap. Warm the water slightly to prevent this chilling.

News From Here and There

WORLD MEAT TRADE — 1958

Canada ranked eleventh among the world's meat exporting countries in 1958. According to the United States Department of Agriculture, Argentina was the leading shipper of meat, with net exports of 1,596 million pounds. In order, other countries were: New Zealand (931); Denmark (904); Australia (578); Netherlands (292); Ireland (197); Brazil (128); Yugoslavia (103); Mexico (101); Uruguay (78); Canada (54); and Paraguay (34 million lb.).

With net imports of 3,341 million pounds, the United Kingdom was the world's leading meat purchaser. The U.S.A. was second, with net imports of 1,016 million pounds, followed by West Germany (142), Cuba (33) and Venezuela (20). Normally the U.S.S.R. is a large importer of meat. Figures for 1958 are not yet available but in 1957 net imports totalled 113 million pounds.

BAN ON LACOMBE HOG EXPORTS

Canada's Agriculture Minister, Honourable D. S. Harkness, announced recently that controls are to be placed on exports of hogs of the new Lacombe breed, to ensure that Canadian swine breeders have first call on available stock. To date, only a limited number of gilts and boars have been distributed to applicants.

The next distribution of around 280 head is scheduled for this spring in April or May, with about double this number likely to be available next fall.

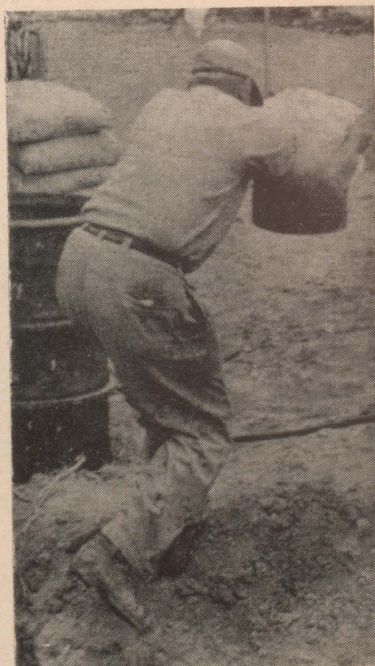
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D.B.S. SEPTEMBER 1ST PIG SURVEY

Canada's pig population was estimated by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics to have been 7,055,000 head on September 1st, 3 per cent over a year previous. An increase of 11 per cent in Eastern Canada was partially offset by a reported 5 per cent decrease in Western Canada.

Hogs under 6 months of age (this fall's marketings) were up 12 per cent in the East and down 8 per cent in the West. Farrowings in June to August (this winter's marketings) were down 6 per cent in Eastern and 7 per cent in Western Canada. Expected farrowings in September to November (spring marketings) are placed at 1 per cent higher in both regions.

Hog producers in the Maritimes and British Columbia apparently are continuing to expand, while the other provinces show varying degrees of caution.



Defusing a time bomb in three uneasy stages. Carpenter Ken Carter (left) looks on in exasperation as skunk ambles along excavation for addition to house, blocking all work. In centre Carter watches as skunk, after refusing to be ousted by hoses, takes interest in overturned pail. At right, Carter, cloth over pail, runs to nearest woods. Total time lost, three hours.

HOW TO PREVENT CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

"Keep the door of your machinery shed open if you plan to do any work on engines this winter," advises Hal Wright, safety expert with the Ontario Department of Agriculture. "Fuel-burning motors give off an odorless gas — carbon monoxide — that can kill you."

Reason for the deadliness of this gas: Carbon monoxide combines with the red blood cells in the lungs 200 times more readily than oxygen. The blood cells carry these carbon monoxide molecules instead of oxygen to all the cells of the body. The result: Tissues starve for lack of oxygen.

Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning may be headache and dizziness. The victim finds it hard to see clearly and he feels terribly tired and sleepy. If he is lucky, at this stage he will step outside for a breath of fresh air or open a door or window.

Later and more serious symptoms are alarming. There may be nausea and vomiting, shortness of breath, rapid heartbeat and unconsciousness. Then death.

Safety expert Wright suggests you get the suspected victim out of the gas-filled atmosphere as quickly as possible. Start artificial respiration at once if the patient

is breathing poorly or has stopped breathing. Send for the doctor and keep the patient warm. Artificial breathing must be continued until natural breathing returns or until the physician says there is no hope.

THINK NOW ABOUT NEXT YEAR'S CROPS

Here's a money-making way to make use of spare time this winter: Plan for 1960 crops.

Says Ontario Department of Agriculture crops specialist Stan Young: "Soil and crop improvement meetings, and breed and federation meetings are one of the best sources of information at this time of year. Crops specialists at these meetings can be a great help. Ask them about your problems. Then, talk to other farmers and get their opinions."

At meetings in which panel discussions are featured, always ask questions. No group of crop specialists can help you unless they hear what your problems are.

Research is now under way on many crop problems. Make it a point to find out if there are any new developments on your particular problem. If there are, find out how they apply to your farm. Then follow them up.

ISRAELI CATTLE HIT BY NEW VIRUS TYPE

TEL AVIV, Israel, Nov. 12—A new type of foot-and-mouth disease has hit Israeli livestock.

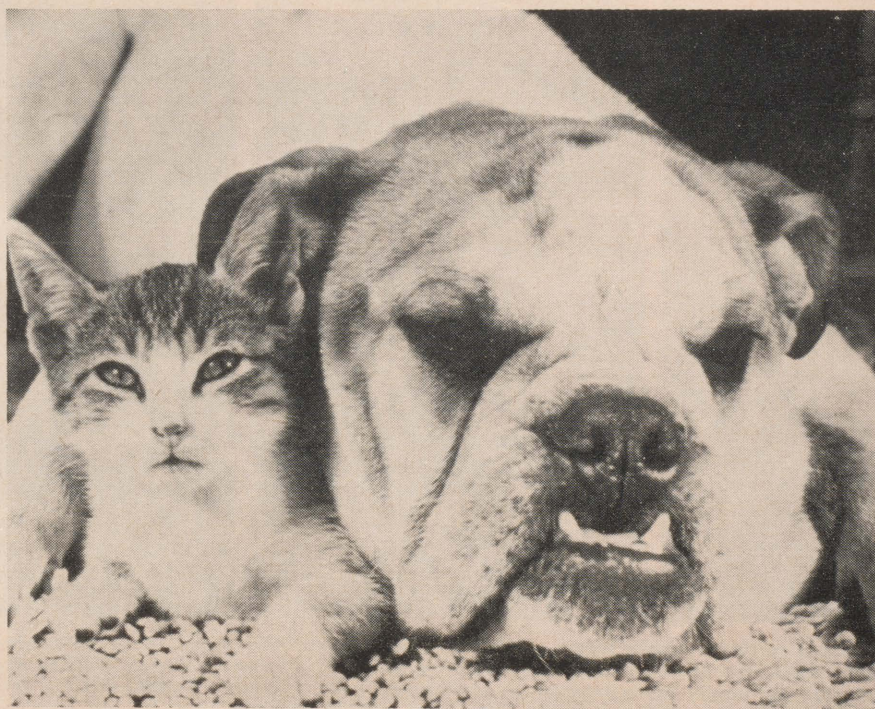
An attempt to stamp out the infection by slaughtering 500 infected cattle has failed. The veterinary authorities ordered the quarantine of 10,000 head in twenty localities.

Dr. Shlmo Freund, director of veterinary services and animal husbandry in the Ministry of Agriculture, identified the virus as the "Asia I" type that, he said, had been unknown until it appeared suddenly in the Far East and Central Asia two years ago. There is no effective vaccine.

The infection was carried into Israel by Lebanese cattle that strayed over the northern border, according to the official.

Before the infection was discovered Oct. 12, some calves had been sent to the slaughter house in Tel Aviv. A number of these were later moved to a near-by village so that the Sabbath rest of residents near the abattoir would not be disturbed.

The outbreak wiped out one of Israel's few pig farms. The farmer bought blood from the abattoir to feed his 200 swine. They became infected and had to be killed.



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